



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Division of Medicaid

CECIL D. ANDRUS
GOVERNOR

JERRY L. HARRIS
DIRECTOR

JEAN S. PHILLIPS
ADMINISTRATOR

BUREAU OF FACILITY STANDARDS

P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0036
(208) 334-6626
(208) 334-0657 FAX

INFORMATIONAL LETTER #94-9

DATE: October 20, 1994

TO: ALL ADMINISTRATORS:

NURSING HOMES
HOSPITALS
ICF/MR's (10 beds or more)
RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES (10 beds or more)

IN REGIONS III, IV, V

FROM: JOHN W. HATHAWAY, Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

SUBJECT: BAN ON BARE-HAND CONTACT OF READY-TO-EAT FOODS

Ongoing monitoring of Hepatitis A throughout the state by the Division of Health, now indicates that reported cases are associated with primary food establishments, **health care facilities**, and day care facilities. A **mandatory BAN** on the handling of ready-to-eat food will be instituted in licensed facilities of 10 beds or more located in Regions III, IV, and V. This means that **all food workers handling ready-to-eat foods in these facilities must wear gloves**.

The mandatory ban will go into effect on November 14, 1994, and will remain in effect until April 10, 1995.

Enclosed is a **FOOD SAFETY NOTICE** that provides additional information and regulatory requirements regarding the ban.

The ban will be mandatory in all facilities preparing and/or serving food to 10 or more clients. Effective November 14, 1994, surveyors will begin observing the preparation and/or serving of food to assure compliance. Failure to implement the ban will be cited as a critical service deficiency and could result in negative action being taken by the Department.

October 20, 1994

Page 2

The Bureau has been in contact with the leadership of the various organizations representing the provider groups and will be working with them on the implementation of the ban. Initial contacts indicate that gloved hands in the kitchens is standard operating procedure in many facilities throughout the state which should minimize the overall implementation problem.

We appreciate your willingness to work with the Department on resolving this problem. Specific questions or comments regarding the implementation of the ban may be directed to the Bureau of Facility Standards by calling (208) 334-6626.

JOHN W. HATHAWAY, Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

JWH/sld

Enclosure

cc: Idaho Health Care Association
Idaho Hospital Association
Idaho Residential and Assisted Living Association
Idaho Association of Private Residential Resources

Reproduction
Original on file at Bureau of Facility Standards